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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,956	08/02/2001	Yasuhiro Hatano	P20744	4317
7055	7590	01/03/2005	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			WORKU, NEGUSSIE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2626	
DATE MAILED: 01/03/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/919,956

Applicant(s)

HATANO, YASUHIRO

Examiner

Negussie Worku

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/17/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) was filed on November 02, 2001 in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner has considered the information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, forth paragraph, subject to the following paragraph, a claim in dependent form shall contain a reference to a claim previously set forth and then specify a further limitation of the subject matter claimed. A claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitation of the claim to which it refers.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hatzmann et al. (USP 3,790,159).

With respect to claim 1, Hatzman et al. discloses a paper feeder apparatus, (fig 2a and B to fig 3, an automatic document handling system, see col.3, lines 53-55) comprising: a paper feed roller (feed roller 84 and 86 of fig 3) that feeds a document (document 32 from tray 30 of fig 3); a separator (72 of fig 3) that prevents double feeding of documents together with said paper feed roller, see (col.4, lines 15-18); a pressing arm (input chute 70 of fig 3 presses separator 72 of fig 3,) that presses said separator (72 of fig 3) towards said paper feed roller (roller 64 of fig 3); a document guide (74 and 76 of fig 3) provided with a pair of guide portions, see (col.4, lines 20-25) the guide portions being located at both longitudinal edges of said separator, (document guide 74 and 76, being located at longitudinal edges of separator 72 of fig 3) the guide portions guiding the document so that a edge of the document passes over said paper feed roller, (feed roller 84 and 86) the guide portions pressing the document to said paper feed roller 84 and 86 of fig 3); and a spring element (spring 250 of fig 5B) that provides spring force to said pressing arm (pressing arm 100 of fig 3) and said document guide (document guide 74 and 76) so that said pressing arm (arm 70 of fig 3) presses said separator (72 of fig 3) and said document guide (74 and 76 of fig 3) presses the document to said paper feed roller (feed roller 84 and 86 of fig 3).

With respect to claim 4, Hatzmann et al. discloses the paper feeder apparatus (fig 2a and B to fig 3, an automatic document handling system, see col.3, lines 53-55), further comprising a spring force controlling section that controls the spring force of said spring element, (spring 250 of fig 3, is held in position by means of fixed pine 252 of fig 5B, so that fixed pine has a function of controlling the spring force of the spring element 252 of fig 3, see col.8, lines 65-68) said spring force controlling section (252 of fig 5B) being located between said spring part (250 of fig 3) and said document guide (74 and 76 of fig 3).

With respect to claim 5, Hatzmann et al. discloses the paper feeder apparatus (fig 2a and B to fig 3, an automatic document handling system, see col.3, lines 53-55), further comprising a spring part, said spring force controlling section (spring 250 of fig 3, is held in position by means of fixed pine 252 of fig 5B, so that fixed pine has a function of controlling the spring force of the spring element 252 of fig 3, see col.8, lines 65-68) being located between said spring parts (spring 250 of fig 3, and said pressing arm (arm 70 of fig 3).

With respect to claim 6, Hatzmann et al. discloses a facsimile apparatus (a facsimile receiving system of fig 1) comprising, the paper feeder apparatus (fig 2a and B to fig 3, an automatic document handling system, see col.3, lines 53-55).

With respect to claim 7, Hatzmann et al. discloses a paper feeder apparatus, (fig 2a and B to fig 3, an automatic document handling system, see col.3, lines 53-55) comprising: a paper feed roller (feed roller 84 and 86 of fig 3) that feeds a document (document 32 from tray 30 of fig 3); a separator (72 of fig 3) that prevents double feeding of documents together with said paper feed roller, see (col.4, lines 15-18); a pressing arm (input chute 70 of fig 3 presses separator 72 of fig 3,) that presses said separator (72 of fig 3) towards said paper feed roller (roller 64 of fig 3); a document guide (74 and 76 of fig 3) provided with a pair of guide portions, see (col.4, lines 20-25) the guide portions being located at both longitudinal edges of said separator, (document guide 74 and 76, being located at longitudinal edges of separator 72 of fig 3) the guide portions guiding the document so that a edge of the document passes over said paper feed roller, (feed roller 84 and 86) the guide portions pressing the document to said paper feed roller 84 and 86 of fig 3); and a spring element (spring 250 of fig 5B) that provides spring force to said pressing arm (pressing arm 100 of fig 3) and said document guide (document guide 74 and 76) so that said pressing arm (arm 70 of fig 3) presses said separator (72 of fig 3) and said document guide (74 and 76 of fig 3) presses the document to said paper feed roller (feed roller 84 and 86 of fig 3).

Claims having Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

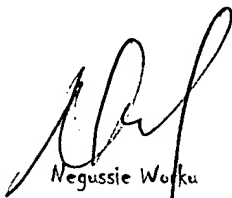
With respect to claim 2 and 3 the prior art does not teach or disclose, wherein said document guide is movably mounted at a first support point spaced apart from a first pressing point at which the document is pressed to said paper feed roller, said pressing arm is movably mounted at a second support point which is located between the first support point and a second pressing point at which said separator is pressed, said spring element applies spring force between the first support point and the pressing point of said document guide in a first direction and applies a spring force on a side of the second support point opposite the second pressing point in a second direction.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is 305-5441. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am-4pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on 703-305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Negussie Wofku
12/17/04



JASON
12/17/04